

AIR PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

299

760-0

EXCISE

FROM : AmEmbassy, HELSINKI

559
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

February 26, 1960
DATE

REF :

New-4 ARA + IO. 2 S/Ewe-1

4✓ For Dept. Use Only	ACTION 1RC. 16	DEPT. RM/R. 2 Rep-1 1CA-11 EUR-5 S/A C-1
	REC'D 3/1	OTHER USIA-11 Army-35 Navy-20 Air-26 SCB-2

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No 8

OSD. 2

CIA

Brief:

1. Finnish EFTA Negotiators in Paris
2. Last Major Union Reaches Wage Agreement
3. New Espionage Case
4. Sukselainen Ends Visit to India
5. Diplomatic Notes
6. Mobile Diplomacy in Latin America
7. The Chessman Story
8. Finland-Soviet Bloc Exchanges
9. U.S. Navy Cruiser "Northampton" to visit Finland

POLITICAL

1. Finnish EFTA Negotiators in Paris (UNCLASSIFIED)

Six members of the Finnish delegation for negotiations on EFTA, headed by Minister Olavi MUNKKI, director of Commercial Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, were in Paris February 25 - 26 for talks with representatives of the Seven regarding conditions of possible Finnish association with the EFTA.

There were several editorial comments during the week, along predictable lines. The Communist KANSAN UUTiset warned, as it often has, against Finnish participation in EFTA, asserting, among other things, that Britain and Sweden have every intention of allying the Seven and the Six, with consequent political dangers for Finland. Independent HELSINGIN SANOMAT, the largest paper in Finland, made a surprisingly personal editorial criticism of Munkki, asserting that the Finnish negotiators are not very highly thought of by the EFTA countries and referring to the "lack of competence shown by the Chairman of the Finnish Delegation."

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTER

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

CLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 2 of

Encl. No.

Desp. No. 559

From Helsinki

31/1

2. Last Major Union Reaches Wage Agreement (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Textile Workers' Federation, which early in the year voted to reject a negotiated wage increase of 2%, this week successfully concluded its collective bargaining with the signature of an agreement granting a 3% wage increase. The textile workers' wage contract follows the pattern of those negotiated recently by the other major unions, including the Industrial Paper Workers' Federation, the Metal Workers' Federation and the Wood Workers' Federation. Wage increases throughout the labor market this year have levelled off at approximately 3½% when such additional benefits as paid "week-day" holidays, reduction of the work week in some industries, and other factors are calculated.

3. New Espionage Case (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Finnish police have arrested a Finnish resident of Rovaniemi, Juho Antti ALANKO, for espionage activities in northern Finland. The Finnish press, using reports from Sweden, have connected the case with the arrest of another Finnish national in Gällevåra, Sweden, for espionage activities in Swedish iron ore fields. Unconfirmed reports state that Alanko was paid between 80,000 and 90,000 Finnmarks, plus some caviar, to set up espionage in the mining regions of northern Sweden.

4. Sukselainen Ends Visit to India (UNCLASSIFIED)

Finnish Prime Minister SUKSELAINEN visited Bangalore, Madras, and Calcutta to end his visit in India. In public statements he continued his discussion of the possibilities of enlarging economic and cultural relationships between Finland and India. The press reports that at least one concrete proposition was discussed with Indian industrialists in Bangalore, i.e., the provision of a complete paper mill by Finland. Sukselainen departed on February 24 for Cairo and Athens. On February 27, he is scheduled to fly from Athens to Copenhagen for the funeral of Prime Minister H. C. HANSEN. He is expected to return to Finland the evening of February 28.

5. Diplomatic Notes (UNCLASSIFIED)

The respective diplomatic missions of India and Finland have been raised to Embassies as a result of a proposal made by Prime Minister Sukselainen during his visit to India. Finnish Ambassador to Atle ASANTTI, has been accredited as Finnish Ambassador to Ethiopia also. Finnish Chargé d'Affaires in Budapest, Toivo HEIKKILÄ, has been appointed Ambassador to Hungary.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 3 of

Encl. No.

Desp. No. 559

From Helsinki

PSYCHOLOGICAL (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Mobile Diplomacy in Latin America

President Eisenhower's journey in South America has generated top newsplay in the Finnish press and stimulated editorial comment. Significantly, the amount of space devoted to the President's visit to four Latin American countries far exceeds that accorded to Khrushchev's visit to South East Asia.

Typical of the headlines on the Eisenhower trip were: "Eisenhower Gets Splendid Reception in Brazil"; "America's Military Strength Guarantees Peace in Free World"; "The Power of America Cannot be Destroyed".

Editorially the Finnish press, both in Helsinki and in the provinces, regarded the Eisenhower tour in Latin America as an effort to "passify ruffled feelings"; to assure America's neighbors to the South that the United States still attaches importance to their friendship; and to make their relations with the U.S. more stable and secure. Some of the editorials point to the dangers of communist influences in the area.

7. The Chessman Story

The Caryl Chessman case has stirred widespread interest in the Finnish press. His last minute reprieve was reported on page one of many Finnish newspapers and otherwise heavily displayed for several days. Many of the dailies used pictures in 2-4 column spreads. HUFVUDSTAD-SBLADET, the Swedish-language daily, and PÄIVÄN SANOMAT, the Social-Democratic opposition organ, criticized the latest phase of the Chessman case and were particularly caustic about America's judicial system which they said was a good argument against capital punishment. The editorials also took note of the influence of foreign political considerations on the decision to stay the execution.

Comment

Prominent Finnish officials expressed their criticism to the Ambassador and Embassy Officers following the announcement of the postponement. Criticism was directed at the death penalty, to which Finns have been traditionally opposed; the prolonged adjudication; and the apparent entry of political considerations affecting the case.

8. Finland-Soviet Bloc Exchanges

Kleemola Visits Leipzig Fair

Associate Minister of Communications Kauno KLEEMOLA will leave February 27 for East Germany to visit the Leipzig Fair, at the invitation of the East German Representation in Helsinki.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(Classification)

Page 4 of

Encl. No.

Desp. No. 559

From Helsinki

He may be accompanied by Jouni HAKKARAINEN of the Ministry of Communications and Public Works and Olavi MATTILA, of the Finnish Foreign Ministry. This visit has not yet been confirmed by official authorities.

Russian Chess Experts Visit Mikkeli

Three Russian chess experts visited the Mikkeli Dairy February 18. They inspected mechanization of cheese-making at the plant. Dr. Vilho KIURU acted as their guide.

Czechoslovakian Delegation in Finland

A. JAVORIK, Czech deputy minister of the chemical industry has joined a delegation now visiting Finland at the moment. The delegation has visited several industrial plants.

MILITARY (UNCLASSIFIED)

NAVY

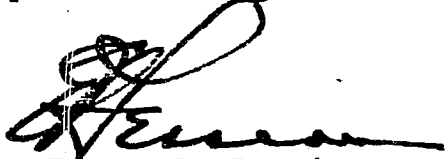
9. U.S. Navy Cruiser "Northampton" to Visit Finland

On 22 February Finnish authorities approved the visit of the cruiser "Northampton" (CIC-1) to the port of Helsinki during the period 11-14 March. Commander Second Fleet Vice Admiral Harold T. Deuterman and his staff are embarked in this ship and total personnel involved in the visit consist approximately of 110 officers and 1200 men.

Comment

Arrangements for entertainment by the Finnish Defense Forces, the City of Helsinki, by the visitors themselves and the U.S. Ambassador during this visit are being made. Press release on 24 February received favorable press coverage.

ARMY & AIR FORCE - Negative


Edson O. Sessions
American Ambassador

CONTRIBUTORS:

POL: WKMiller - Item 1
TSellin - Item 2
HFNelson, jr - Items 3, 4 & 5
PSY: ECCox
MIL: NThorne, LtCol

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

Page 5 of

Encl. No. _____

Desp. No. 559

From Helsinki

B/EC

7

DECLASSIFIED